

The Centre for Media History at Bournemouth University, in association  
with the Shelley Frankenstein Festival, proudly present

# "IT'S ALIVE!" THE FIRST 200 YEARS OF 'FRANKENSTEIN'

A Public Lecture by  
Professor Sir Christopher Frayling

Tuesday 20 February 2018, 7pm  
St Peter's Church, 4 Hinton Road,  
Bournemouth, BH1 2EE

In 1851, Mary Shelley was buried at St Peter's Church, Bournemouth, near the new Shelley home in Boscombe. But there was no mention of 'Frankenstein' on her head-stone. By then, her unmentionable novel had left the world of literature altogether and entered the world of popular myth: it was treated by most literary critics - as it was by the local vicar - as a disreputable piece of juvenilla by the wife of the better-known Percy Shelley...

'Frankenstein' had first been published two hundred years ago, on New Year's Day 1818, in an expensive three-volume edition of just 500 copies. The author was eighteen when she conceived it, nineteen when she expanded her short story into a novel and twenty when it came out after being rejected by several upmarket publishers. By 1826, no less than fifteen different versions had been performed on stages in England and France, and the F-word had entered the language as shorthand for assorted public anxieties about 'progress'. It was the plays and burlesques rather than the 1818 novel which transformed the story into a significant contributor to the culture, setting the tone for countless film versions in the twentieth century.

Come along to this illustrated lecture, in the place of Mary Shelley's burial, where Professor Sir Christopher Frayling will explore the creation of 'Frankenstein', its adaptations, and its afterlife as myth.



**Professor Sir Christopher Frayling, a recognised authority on Gothic fiction and film and an award-winning broadcaster on radio and television, has written extensively on art, design and popular culture. His latest book is 'Frankenstein - the first two hundred years' published by Reel Art Press. He will be signing copies after the lecture.**

**This lecture is a forerunner event to the Shelley Frankenstein Festival 2018, to be held in November 2018, to celebrate 200 years since the publication of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'.**

**FREE TICKETED ADMISSION. AGES 11+. TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:**

**[www.200yearsfrankenstein.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.200yearsfrankenstein.eventbrite.co.uk)**